

Application No.: 10/785,089Docket No.: 713-1044REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. The specification and Abstract have been revised as proposed in the *unentered* Rule 116 Amendment filed April 19, 2005. The rejected claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claim 21 has been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The Examiner's additional argument manifested in the Advisory Action mailed May 4, 2005 is noted. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's contention for the reasons presented in the Rule 116 Amendment, further claim amendments have nevertheless been made solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution.

In particular, amended independent claim 1 additionally recites that "said follower, while traveling on the first and second paths, moves in the plane of said work face from one of the two opposed faces of the cases towards the other and vice versa." This amendment finds solid support in, at least, the original drawings, especially FIGs. 1 and 9. Specifically, the path in FIG. 9, along which follower 14 travels in operation, indicates that follower 14 moves laterally from one side (right hand side near reference numeral 30) to the other side (left hand side near reference numeral 24) of island 27, and vice versa. This means, in FIG. 1, follower 14 moves from one of the lateral walls 25, 26 of the sliding member towards the other, and vice versa. In other words, follower 14 moves from one of the two opposed walls 17 of the case towards the other, and vice versa.

The applied reference of *Kurosaki* does not teach or suggest the newly added claim feature

Application No.: 10/785,089Docket No.: 713-1044

because, as shown in *Exhibit A* attached to the Rule 116 Amendment, follower 11 always stays on central axis A of case 1. This means, follower 11 *does not* move from one of the opposed walls (reference numerals 12 in FIG. 15 of *Kurosaki*) of case 1 towards the other, and vice versa, as presently claimed. Follower 14 maintains substantially constant distances from the opposed walls.

Amended claim 1 is therefore believed patentable over *Kurosaki*. Claims 2-17 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 1.

Amended independent claim 18 additionally recites that "said follower, while traveling on the first and second paths, moves, in the plane of said work face and **relative to said case, a distance greater than a maximum width of said central island** as measured in a direction transverse to the sliding direction." This amendment finds solid support in, at least, the original drawings, especially FIG. 9. Specifically, the path in FIG. 9, along which follower 14 travels in operation, indicates that follower 14 moves laterally, relative to the case, a distance (between the outermost vertical arrows) greater than a maximum width of central island 27.

The applied reference of *Kurosaki* does not teach or suggest the newly added claim feature because, as shown in *Exhibit A* attached to the Rule 116 Amendment, follower 11 always stays on central axis A of case 1. This means, follower 14 does not move relative to case 1 in the presently claimed manner.

Amended claim 18 is therefore believed patentable over *Kurosaki*. Claims 19-21 depend from claim 18, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 18. New claim 21 is further patentable over *Kurosaki* because the reference does not teach or suggest that said central island is an **integral part** of said body. *Kurosaki* even *teaches away* from the claimed feature by providing a separately formed cam element 5 as shown in FIG. 12 of the reference.

Application No.: 10/785,089**Docket No.: 713-1044**

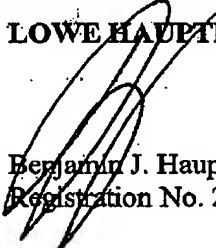
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP


Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

USPTO Customer No. 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-1111 BJH/KL/klb
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: May 19, 2005

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING FACSIMILE TRANSMITTED
TO THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ON THE DATE SHOWN BELOW



TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF PERSON SIGNING CERTIFICATION

SIGNATURE

May 19, 2005
DATE

703-872-9306
FACSIMILE NUMBER